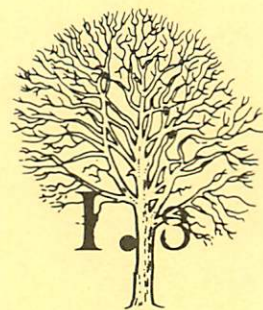


# ACORN





The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter

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Cover: Winter at the Rectory, Niagara-on-the-Lake.  
PJS Photograph.

Gill Simmons finally replied to our plaintive note in Acorn I-2. The final choice was Architectural Conservancy's OLD RELIABLE Newsletter. But Gill also mentioned enthusiastically five other R's – rivetting, rambunctious, resilient, riproaring and ritualistic. Thanks Gill. Well, we're overwhelmed and almost hurt that there was no mention of respectable, reasonable or reassuring, but glad it isn't recalcitrant, reckless, repulsive, revengeful, rabid nor even ribald – yet!

As new municipal councils take office in 1977 we wonder how the Heritage Act will be used to the advantage it deserves. While on the subject of Ontario's legislation for preservation, we take the opportunity of reminding any of our readers – from far as well as near – that although it seems to lack a certain definition at first sight it does fit every conceivable circumstance. It remains only for the local community, the municipality concerned, to set about making it work by placing its own interpretations within the framework provided. Hence the Ontario Heritage Foundation has written guidelines for building designation and area conservation under parts four and five respectively of Bill 176. While the Province is out of the actual selection of buildings at the local level and not directly concerned with the demarcation of historic districts, it still keeps a watching brief over these activities and serves as referee, through the Conservation Review Board, when conflicts or objections arise.

It seems a highly practicable arrangement, infinitely flexible, tailor-made to fit each and every Ontario community whatever its foundation or background might be. Not many places share the same opportunity. But for that opportunity to be realized requires community participation and the hard work, perseverance and application common to preservationists in particular. This leads to another thought, namely the operation of the Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees (LACAC for short). Not all communities have set up such committees, some which

have do not seem to function effectively, while a few have certainly proceeded carefully but steadily on to achievement. As Dr. Anthony Adamson remarked in summing up the deliberations of the Kingston Symposium, New Life for Old Buildings, there seemed to be some misunderstanding of the function of LACAC and on occasion such committees might appear to be "second-guessing" council. This does suggest the advisory aspect was being misunderstood and was not being applied: we believe such instances have occurred. There is also a tendency to burden such committees with responsibilities really outside their purview, such as determining the rehabilitation and re-use of a public building properly the subject of a separate council committee or authority duly appointed for that specific task.

This brings us to the composition of LACAC's: what is the most effective combination? First the hardest workers are needed and preservationists usually lead the way in this regard. Secondly those of balanced judgment who can not only understand but interpret preservation activity into practical terms are important contributors. Finally certain members from those elected must represent the governing body of the community for LACAC is an advisory body to Council. Committees that work together – and we speak from personal experience – are most happily productive when chosen in mutual admiration and respect, preferably friendly peers in other words. The job's the thing is a suitable motto, the task at hand to pre-occupy all concerned. The balance to strike is not always easily accomplished and the ideal, as in all human relations, like perfection is an earthly pursuit and a heavenly attainment.

Some committees have worked extremely well and while dealing with contentious issues have been steadfast. Indeed there is already some creditable achievement across the province. Others have been a lamentable and inexcusable failure. There are several communities notorious in their lack of LACAC: now is the time to redress that negligence. So for the sad puddings and those learning to cook may we offer a recipe to keep the historic frostings on the cake and the architectural plums inside: a majority of hard-working preservationists well laced with local people of longstanding respecting the community's quality and leavened with a sprinkling of the elected representatives. Bake in a steady oven of activity for preservation of the community's character before the party's over. Season's greetings to you all.

P. J. S.

Many thanks for the contributions of material for this issue – there seems no likelihood of the well drying up. Occasionally we have to pump a little harder to bring it to the surface, as on this last occasion, but it comes up sweet and smiling in the end.

Our Editorial Board has been re-arranged to provide service on time and energy where required thus relieving the new President of some responsibility and maybe retribution. However the pact included PJS as a contributing editor – until further notice. We hope that every future tête-à-tête regarding Acorn will remain printable!

## ERRATA: Acorn 1-2

To the back cover of  
Acorn 1-2: lower left:  
*The Bank of Montreal:*  
Move picture to B-1  
position, caption to  
B-3 and legend to  
B-2, the legend to  
read B-1 Guelph,  
B-2 Bowmanville,  
B-3 Yonge and Front,  
Toronto.  
Our apologies for the  
confusion.



**BANK OF MONTREAL**  
B-1 Guelph  
B-2 Bowmanville  
B-3 Yonge & Front,  
Toronto

B2

See NO MEAN CITY, Plate  
107 for the prototype of  
early Banks of Montreal  
& the predecessor of B-3

B3

## A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is with some trepidation that I step into the President's place in this august and long-established preservation society trying to fill the shoes of those before me, the professors who taught me much of what I know or those who have known more than I can ever hope to assimilate. All I have to offer is some practical experience in the preservation field, in having lived with it, for it and by it for some time now, one of the opportunities I did not let slip. So my face is now where my mouth was even if I tremble in my boots at the prospect.

The position of President is upheld by a hard-working Council — and that the Council certainly is. The Conservancy functions as a lively federation of branches united by that

Council representing in person those Branches. I look forward to those representatives at each Council meeting as I have enjoyed the Branches' contributions to Acorn. Acorn, set up while John McFarland was President is yet another step to sharing the news and views of all in the Conservancy. Likewise, as previously, we hope to hold some meetings during the year in the Conservancy's outposts in Ontario. The Port Hope escapade last year was a great — and most enjoyable — success.

Much of the activity stimulated in preservation in the past was by private individuals or groups either loosely banded together or more closely linked as in the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario. Now we have publicly sponsored organizations alongside us with which we can cooperate and there find support for our activities. The Conservancy being a body of private individuals can continue, however, to play an active part in preservation and has the advantage, if properly handled, of being more immediate in its response to alarm, more outspoken in its expression of opinion and thorough in its consideration of problems if all the disciplines and interests the Conservancy represents can be called upon.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario stands for the continuity of life expressed in our heritage of building as well as the outstanding examples of natural beauty. Its role is to help pass on to future generations a world neither spent nor wasted, but enhanced and enriched by continued use of our inheritance and its complement of new building fit to become also a heritage. This means, in other words, that the Conservancy must watch that the old does not come down needlessly and that the new is always fitting replacements in the community.

To this end all good wishes for the season and 1977.

Peter John Stokes

Friends of Old City Hall and admirers of Jim Acland will be pleased to hear that the memorial fund in his name has now reached more than \$1,000 and will be turned over to the Cathedral Appeal for the restoration of the Cathedral. Contributions from Friends were matched by the ACO and augmented by other contributions as well as receipts from the Annual General Meeting in November.

Mrs. James L. James of Brockville sent to us recently a clipping from the Globe and Mail dated May 5, 1945 and headed — Founded 165 years Ago Town Plans Rebirth, the subject Niagara-on-the-Lake. It is fascinating yet rather unnerving to read, for had the proposals put forward by a Toronto architect at that time been followed it would certainly have done away with much of the superfluous ugliness of hanging signs that too long prevailed. But by the same token the next step was Disneyland indeed, modelled on Williamsburg's example. Ever since, regrettably, this outstanding community — architecturally and historically speaking — has suffered from the stigma implanted at that time. More recent development instead of being in the real spirit of our age has been too often a poor imitation of the old. On the other hand older buildings of considerable intrinsic worth are now being gutted to serve new purposes

thus becoming shells of their former glory, their original detail no doubt to be replaced by paste-board replicas.

As one new resident was quoted, when hearing that the new Post Office was to be of contemporary or modern design, but still sympathetic to the town, would it not be better to follow the design of older building even if it was a little fake. As a well-known Toronto architect once remarked, if you are going to copy, you have to know what to copy. It is one thing to be inspired by what is there and use that inspiration to create in this day and age, another to reproduce slavishly old detail and yet a third to confuse the real with the bogus. Far better that new building be modern, but in sympathy, using compatible forms and materials, a discipline almost entirely lacking in the rebuilding and infilling of our smaller urban communities. Niagara-on-the-Lake would be a good place to start.

Too often the Williamsburg example is confused with the Niagara-on-the-Lake experience. While the former was a grandiose scheme, grandly backed and splendidly carried out to be viewed in detachment, old Niagara continues to be a living community undergoing change — except that now changes are becoming both more rapid and regrettable. In fact, this point of the living community was completely lost on a visiting technocrat enjoying the recent APT (Association for Preservation Technology) Conference who thought it a pale imitation of his national shrine: perish that comparison once and for all.

However a few quotes show how architects can forget architectural history and social history for that matter and how that professional breed is predominantly of the genus “improver” rather than conservator. “Down will come — the signs and the false fronts and the extra work of the Victorian-Edwardian period that today make the street an incongruous mixture of the garish of the modern day and the simple lines of the early 1800’s.” (No mention here that Queen Street buildings also include first editions of Victorian and Edwardian buildings or revisions of earlier “printings”. So off with the gingerbread, original, fanciful, architectural or not.) “The paint (white that is) and the replacing of large panes of glass with small *squares* (a Freudian slip!) will accomplish most of the change.” (Hence apparently the temptation of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce to the multi-paned treatment of its late Victorian front of the plate glass era, fortunately, however, avoided. But little need of restoration is suggested for McClelland’s despite the mutilation of that early 19th century front by plate glass.)

The illustrations demonstrate even more the ideas of the “Rechintzy”, as we might call it today, although thirty years ago it was a laudable escape. So Field’s Drug Store, to be restored as the Niagara Apothecary a quarter of a century later, the 1866 Italianate shopfront complete with its Florentine windows recorded in old photographs and with evidence still remaining, was dressed up with fanlights — or as we used to call it on our Upper Canada Village days a job of “earlying up”. Plate glass was made irretrievably paneful in late Victorian façades and it would appear shutters were irresistibly white. (Shutters traditionally are a dark colour, usually a deep green almost black to give the appearance of windows when closed — a fascinating touch.)

“Niagara hopes some day to become a national and international monument to history, culture, democracy and

goodwill”. (To that end its Shaw Festival, The Canadian Mime Theatre, the Niagara Institute and other activities attest. But there is no mention of tourism — which, with local incapacity to recognize and deal with the problems its popularity presents threatens the very life if not the whole existence of this once historic place.)

P. J. S.

The ACO Council at a recent meeting agreed to revive the Advisory Board and will shortly set about its organization. The most important function of the Board is to help stimulate interest and activity in preservation at the outset of a worthwhile project and to make a brief prospectus available to those who must seek further backing and carry on the work in greater detail towards the realization of the goal. A parallel responsibility likely to evolve is the Board’s advisory role to the ACO and its Council in requests for support of preservation projects.

Late March 1977 will mark the 40th anniversary of the restoration of St. Andrew’s Church in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the first project under the auspices of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario and directed by ACO’s founder, Professor Eric R. Arthur.

To mix our metaphors — ’tis an ill wind that blows no good — with reference to “Nothing is fairer than a rose nor sorrier than a Scotch thistle living beside a dead rose bush” (which admittedly might provoke cries of Sassenach sentiment) — we are happy to report an unexpected outcome thanks to Mr. Kehl of Amherstburg who, recalling information from a magazine on horticulture, passed on the name of the wrecker of the Dale Estate. Some 1300 panes of old glass were removed carefully from the greenhouses in Brampton to be used in reglazing and repairs to Victoria Hall in Cobourg — at a fraction of the cost of new glass and preserving the shimmering mirror effect of that landmark’s windows.

## NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

### OTTAWA:

Heritage Ottawa is a non-profitable charitable organization incorporated under the laws of Ontario and authorized by the Department of National Revenue to issue receipts for tax purposes for donations received. Although Heritage Ottawa was incorporated in 1974, it has been active since 1967 when a Heritage Committee was formed as part of the Canadian capital. Heritage Ottawa currently has an active membership of 400 and is growing.

For a number of years interested citizens in Ottawa had urged the National Capital Commission to preserve and restore a small stone building which it owned on John Street at the north edge of the neighbourhood known as New Edinburgh. John Street intersects Sussex Drive near the Prime Minister’s residence. The building was constructed by Thomas McKay as a double house to accommodate the families of two workmen who were occupied with the construction of his home — now Rideau Hall. It was later converted for use as a schoolhouse, the first in Bytown, and is often referred to as the Fraser Schoolhouse.

This historic structure, threatened with demolition, was preserved by the National Capital Commission and adapted for use as a small office building. In 1975 it was leased at a nominal rent to Heritage Ottawa for use as an office and gallery. The City of Ottawa likewise provides assistance in the form of an annual grant. The Society has undertaken an active gallery programme, organizing displays related to the theme of heritage conservation. Heritage Ottawa will carry out a feasibility study and submit proposals for possible restoration of the structure.

As to activities, this fall the citizens of Ottawa have been celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the city (originally Bytown). Our group has taken an active part. Martin Weil, our President and a restoration architect, participated in a programme of commemorative lectures sponsored by City Hall. His talk was on the architectural heritage of the city.

Thanks to the efforts of Director David Lewis and his committee, Heritage Ottawa sponsored a Heritage Ball on Friday evening, October 22nd. With the cooperation of the two local military regiments, the Ball was held in the Cartier Square Drill Hall, our historic 1879 armoury. The Ball was well attended and the evening was enjoyed by all.

Currently, we are putting on a series of illustrated lectures for the public on the subject, "The Architectural Style, Construction, Maintenance and Restoration of Stone and Log Houses in the Ottawa Valley". The lectures are being given each Monday evening in November, and the first two Tuesday evenings in December, at the Marion Hall Amphitheatre at Ottawa University. The first three lectures drew crowds of approximately 350 persons each night — a measure of the concern on the part of the public for the preservation of their architectural heritage. Admission fee to each lecture is One Dollar and considerable interest has been displayed at our table selling memberships.

Heritage Ottawa last summer cooperated with Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology, a community college with an architectural technology programme, to undertake a study of historic architectural detailing in the corridor of the Rideau River. This limited study, which concentrated on four representative buildings, was funded by Parks Canada under their Parks Awareness Programme.

For some time now members of Heritage Ottawa have been interested in the idea of setting up and maintaining a revolving fund to protect, acquire and ensure preservation of heritage buildings. The City of Ottawa has recently expressed interest in the same matter. Accordingly, members of Heritage Ottawa, representatives of City Council and other citizens have come together on a committee to work on this proposal. Research is being carried out, options are being studied and proposals formulated for consideration.

February 21, 1977 is Heritage Day across Canada. We are planning a special event here on that day and hope that other heritage groups across the province and the country would also plan to mark the occasion.

W. E. Keenan, Vice-President, Heritage Ottawa

## KINGSTON:

Activity to Kingston remains brisk and productive. Volume Four of the historic buildings survey is about to be

published, and with this some two hundred and forty buildings have been listed with architectural assessments and pertinent historical information attached. Not all are recommended for immediate designation but the lists form a comprehensive inventory of Kingston's historic building. Volumes Five and Six are also in preparation. The editor has been Dr. Margaret Angus who admitted that the compilation and checking of information was no easy task.

One highlight of the recent season was the Kingston Symposium: New Life for Old Buildings sponsored jointly by the Frontenac Historic Foundation, The Ontario Heritage Foundation and Heritage Canada. Members of heritage conservation groups and LACAC's were there to take part in the various sessions, several being held simultaneously to the usual frustration of many participants. But time was short and the ground to cover large. However, it was a success from the injection of "good American PR" (Dr. Anthony Adamson's phrase!) from Arthur Zeigler of the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation to the banter served by R. A. J. Phillips of Heritage Canada so ably returned by A. B. R. Laurence and then to be flung into the net, a dead bird. Finally Dr. Adamson's summation pinpointing what he found received too little discussion and argument such as consideration of historical and architectural values in the selection of buildings for designation leading to how and what to designate and the function of LACAC's and their role in the workings of building preservation and district conservation under Bill 176. A very telling exhibition was mounted in the Agnes Etherington Gallery showing the local battle for preservation represented by photographs, a slide show (with grizzly sound effects at appropriate moments) and numerous fascinating fragments from old buildings from the early 19th century to exuberant detail of the later Victorian period. This is worthy of display elsewhere and should certainly go on tour. The symposium was held in the new Donald Gordon Centre attached to the historic house, Roselawn, built in 1841.

We hope to hear more from the Frontenac Historic Foundation shortly.

P. J. S.

## PORT HOPE:

The merchants on our main street are slowly awakening to the idea of conservation. Several buildings have had face-liftings, if not restoration. One has been restored under the advice of David Lane. We have Peter Stokes to thank for this awakening interest.

The local branch of the Conservancy intends to continue the Kenneth Clark series of the movie Civilization to members and friends.

We have pledged our support and money to the main street decorative lighting project. One lamp has already been installed as a demonstration.

An informal supper party was held in June at Penryn Park. Pierre St. Laurent's slides added to the enjoyment of the event.

The Port Hope Branch was represented by Mrs. Garland at the Kingston Symposium on 'New Life for Old Buildings'. As a result she will be producing a weekly article on Canadian architecture for the Port Hope Evening Guide.

(Several have already appeared and have created much local interest. The series might well become an informative handbook.)

PJS

At the Annual General Meeting the new executive was brought in, with Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe as president. Mrs. Martha Kidd of Peterborough was the guest speaker and showed slides of her city.

## NOTES ON SYMPOSIUM FOR THE ACORN

The Kingston Symposium on 'New Life for Old Buildings' was held September 9-12. It was sponsored by the Frontenac Historic Foundation, Heritage Canada, and Ontario Heritage Foundation. I represented the Port Hope Branch, and probably the happiest impression that I came away with was that our group was not the only one fighting its battle against apathy and ignorance. Others were either experiencing the same frustrations or had found ways to overcome them. It was comforting to hear others' experiences and then to be able to confide one's own.

The great surge of interest in conservation was apparent. And yet, in his summing up, Anthony Adamson noted that although conservation and history go hand in hand, the latter aspect of the study was very seldom mentioned. We learned of the benefits of preservation, what to save, how to protect a heritage property, how we pay for it, and then the summing up, what we have learned.

### Random Brief Notes from the Speakers:

Arthur Zeigler noted that aluminum plaques were much cheaper than bronze, and very attractive. Put a picture of a building or a house in a book and it's usually saved. One way of making money for your group is to collect salvage when an old house or building is being torn down, and then have a sale: bricks, stones, old mantels, locks, door handles, etc. Another way to save a house is to have your group buy it, and then invite interior decorators and antique dealers to furnish rooms to use as sales rooms. A catchy advertising phrase is 'Send a present to your past'. Williamsburg cost 90 million dollars. But tourism brings in 100 million. He liked the idea of Port Hope's \$1.00 bus tours of the town and area, and stressed the value of everyone oh-ing and ah-ing over the houses, especially over those correctly restored.

Barbara Humphries, head of the Canadian Inventory of Buildings, Parks Canada, stressed the importance of doing an inventory of our houses and buildings of historic or architectural value. "We must know what we have", she said. There should also be photographic documentation. To get data on houses, one should use school and church records.

It was suggested that renovations on designated buildings should be tax deductible. Mr. Ryan of the Ontario Heritage Foundation was pleased with the number of Architectural Advisory committees in town and cities. The Port Hope representative hung her head. (Believe it or not Port Hope has no LACAC! PJS) Conservancy members as well as Historical Society members must police all buildings which have been given grants or an easement, to see that promises are kept.

Mr. R. A. J. Phillips, executive director of Heritage Canada mentioned that when Sir John A. Macdonald's office in Ottawa was ripped out, Heritage Canada and Ottawa Heritage were the only groups who protested. Apparently the damage was done because people didn't want to antagonize someone in the government. Mr. Phillips called this incest between groups.

It was stressed that when you are asking for money you must deal in a business-like way. You must establish your credit and credibility. Tell who are your responsible officers, bankers, lawyers, etc. Tell what funds you have and how you raised them. Give an annual financial statement. Give your object. You must have an evaluation of the physical state of the building you want money for. What is its future use? What funds do you have for maintenance? Give an estimate of funds needed, also for the complete project. How long will it take? How much money can your organization provide? What can you provide in labour, materials and qualified volunteers? Send pictures. Heritage Canada does not make grants. It lends money at lower interest on mortgages. Ontario Heritage Foundation does make grants and, occasionally mortgages, at slightly reduced rates, for heritage buildings.

The workings of these Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees were explained and questions from the floor were answered.

In summing up Mr. Adamson spoke of the power of the private purse. It was immense. But good P.R. is also what saves buildings. You must appeal to the public conscience, and also you must involve the unconverted conservationist. And above all, don't stop at the end of the lost battle. As mentioned above, Mr. Adamson said he felt that history had not been stressed enough, and he ended by saying that more trouble should be taken to study the architecture of Canada. I came away feeling that the Conservancy's chief and on-going job was education.

M. W. G.

## TORONTO:

The Toronto Region Branch of the Conservancy is currently conducting a building study of the residential area of the City of Toronto known as "Rosedale", from the years 1795 to 1940. The purpose of the survey is threefold:

(1) To underline the architectural value of Rosedale to Toronto by recording the architects who designed its buildings;

(2) To trace the development of Rosedale, follow the change in its character and note the buildings it has, or had, of historical significance; and

(3) To produce a house-to-house record of the building history of each street.

To assist us in this study, Rosedale residents have been asked to provide any information they can about their own homes, and a form to be completed and returned has been sent to them. Further, volunteer members of our Branch have been examining building permits and assessment rolls in the City Archives and have presented themselves at the Registry Office to search the records for old deeds. This work still continues.

The exercise has been most rewarding for everyone involved and has produced valuable information for our



Rosedale Study as well as augmenting our card file on Ontario architects.

It was decided that we would have a review of some of the material that has been collected thus far and to invite the residents to share in it with us. We called it "Rosedale Revisited", and we met on Saturday, October 23rd, 1976 at "Glenhurst", the lovely old Jarvis estate lying at the west limit of Elm Avenue.

Alderman William Kilbourn arrived in a beautiful yellow 1911 'Ford' for the official opening — the bus stood by, ready for the tours of North Rosedale that had been worked out by Ann Kilgour. Elizabeth Vickers and Kent Rawson were waiting to lead the walking tours. The west walking tour was that of the early 'Rose Park' development. The east walking tour was of the second development and was architecturally oriented, contrasting the houses designed by architects with those by builders.

Inside, displays had been set up and included a series of old maps and surveys, developers' plans and old photographs. The classifications of displays included 'Early Development', 'Architectural Plans', 'Early Families', 'Churches, Schools and Bridges', 'Public Works and Transportation' and 'Recreation'. One display was that of the Research itself.

The highlight of our interest in conservation was a talk on the Rosedale Ravines, given to us by Dale Taylor. (The report on the Park Drive Ravine, Rosedale prepared by Dale Taylor and Paul Scrivener for the North Rosedale Rate-payers Association is published by the Toronto Field Naturalists' Club: Price \$2.00 with maps, physical and historical background as well as the fauna and flora of the ravine.)

A presentation of slides gave us a nostalgic view of the early days in Rosedale and conversations with some of our older guests added new information about houses and their original owners.

In the next issue of Acorn, we hope to look at 'Rosedale Revisited' in retrospect and discuss the building aspect of the continuing project.

I. E. C.



Carol Neal greets Alderman William Kilbourn at the entrance to Glenhurst during "Rosedale Revisited" 23 October 1976.

Marion MacRae, author of "hallowed walls" spoke at the November meeting held at the Heliconian Club.

A fund has been set up to move and rehabilitate the C.N.R. Parkdale Station in West Toronto at a total cost estimated to be \$186,000.00. Other funding is available from the City of Toronto, the Ontario Heritage Foundation and Wintario if the Parkdale S.O.S. Committee can raise cash or pledges for about \$52,000.00. Cash and pledges can be made out to the Manager, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, 209 Roncesvalles Avenue, Toronto.

## HAMILTON:

The Hamilton-Niagara Branch helped host the 1976 Annual General Meeting of the Association for Preservation Technology which was held at the Holiday Inn here, September 29th to October 2nd. In preparation for this event we were able to produce a pocket-size walking tour brochure describing some of the best buildings downtown. Copies of this brochure, which is the first of a series, are available for 50 cents each by writing to us at P.O. Box 20, McMaster University.

The evening of October 19th provided an unusual combination of events for our members. A tour of the magnificent new Spectator building, at Main West and Highway 403, was followed by two films on architectural conservation and discussion in one of the building's public meeting rooms.

On November 4th, the first of what is hoped to be a series of three panel discussions was held. Long time dedicated Conservancy member Thea Ashton was the inspiration and principal organizer of the series entitled "The Architectural Conservancy — Today, Tomorrow, Why". The audience responded well to Chairman Sandy (Dr. A. G.) McKay and the panel members Peter Stokes, Eberhard Zeidler and Trevor Garwood-Jones. The event marked our branch's return as a vital part of the ACO and our determination to distinguish Hamilton as a city that cares about its past.

On November 15th we held our annual meeting with election of officers. Many recent members are eager to help with the work of our Evaluation Committee. This committee is studying the oldest of the city's neighbourhoods, and preparing information in an effort to secure the preservation of landmarks, streets, and residential areas having character and human scale.

This year we are concentrating on presenting a full programme of events centering around monthly meetings. A printed programme should be available early in the new year.

## MORE ON SANDYFORD PLACE

In ACORN I-1 mention was made of Sandyford Place, the four unit 1857 stone terrace that was the first property designated in Ontario, under the Ontario Heritage Act. Since the Conservation Review Board upheld the designation and the required bylaw was passed August 16, 1975, the building has been patiently waiting for some attention as it sits sadly vacant on Duke Street. Now at last work on its exterior restoration will begin soon.

With the help of a \$125,000 grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation, the City of Hamilton purchased three units of the four in the terrace from the developer owner for a total of \$253,000. The fourth unit, at the corner of MacNab and Duke, remains in the hands of an investment company. Principals of the company have given indications that they would like to participate, as a partner with the city, in exterior restoration work.

The building has been empty since the summer of 1975, when the developer evicted the tenants. Concerned eyes viewed that action as preparation for demolition in order to escape the Heritage Act. Luckily the developers decided to wait things out. I imagine they are pleased now that they have cash in hand rather than an apartment building half constructed, running over on cost, and looking forward to a 3.9% vacancy rate and rent controls.

The Hamilton LACAC is overseeing the whole Sandyford project. Peter Stokes, Arthur Wallace, and Filer Consultants Limited have been retained to prepare feasibility reports and estimates for exterior restoration. Preliminary estimates are now in. The building is being winterized.

The plan is to sell off the units of the terrace individually with just their exteriors restored. Purchasers will be relatively free to convert the interiors to several units if they choose.

J. B. Q.

## THE ASSOCIATION FOR PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY Annual General Meeting — September 29 - October 2, 1976, Hamilton, Ontario.

The APT held a pre-conference training course on the Deterioration of Wood with subtitles of Causes — Prevention and Cure; it was held on the 27th, 28th and 29th of September, 1976. The three days of practical instruction from recognized experts who talked on subjects of — Identification of wood species in structures, Fungi and Insect Pests, Fungicides and Pesticides, Preventive Measures that could be used, and the Rehabilitation of Deteriorated Wood.

For people who were not involved with the pre-conference training course, the registration was on Wednesday from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. The delegates were welcomed by the various sponsoring groups — Hamilton — Niagara Branch of the Architectural Conservancy, Hamilton Region Conservation Authority, Royal Botanical Gardens and the City of Hamilton.

On Thursday morning there were two concurrent sessions of lectures taking place at the Holiday Inn. These two sessions comprised *Hamilton in History* and *Investigative Procedures*. *Hamilton in History* was most interesting for five speakers lectured on different aspects of the city including Frank Jones on the Military History of the Head of the Lake, Jeanne Minhinnick with The Comparison of the Restoration of Whitehern and Dundurn Castle, Dr. Grant Head concerning the History of the Architectural Development of the Hamilton area, Jack Jamieson on The 18th Century Development of the Head of the Lake, Brig. Willis Moogk about Niagara-on-the-Lake — Capital of Upper

Canada. What made this session so interesting is that all of these topics seemed to flow into each other giving the session a strong feeling of continuity thus holding the audience's attention.

Luncheon at Hamilton Place was followed by a walking tour of the Hamilton core; this was sponsored by the Hamilton Branch of the Architectural Conservancy. The response to the tour was very favourable and great interest was shown in Sandyford Place, Hamilton's recently designated building. Later in the day the delegates toured Dundurn Castle, followed by dinner and entertainment at the Castle.

Friday morning greeted the delegates with a choice of two lecture sessions — *The Controversy in Cleaning* chaired by Peter John Stokes or *Colour Technology* chaired by Theo. Pruden.

The afternoon started with lunch at Queenston Heights followed by a choice of tours, one to view houses and gardens at Niagara-on-the-Lake or another comprising a military theme to Fort Niagara on the American side and Fort Mississauga, Butler's Barracks and Fort George in Niagara-on-the-Lake followed by a short tour of the old town. This was a wonderful opportunity for the military enthusiasts to tour through fort after fort with military experts from both Canada and the United States. Delegates dined at one of three Niagara-on-the-Lake's restaurants, the Pillar and Post, The Open Inn or the Prince of Wales.

Saturday morning concurrent sessions were two interesting topics — *Building Conservation Methods* and *Landscape Preservation*. The afternoon greeted the delegates with a choice of three area tours — Royal Botanical Gardens, Industrial Archaeology Tour, or the Tour of the Hamilton Region Conservation Authority.

The Conference was rounded off with a banquet at Vallance Memorial Hall at McMaster University followed by the entertainment of "Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada" — a presentation based on the book written by Mrs. Anna Jamieson in 1838 with Pauline Carey playing Mrs. Jamieson.

Student members of APT were also included in the programme starting with a pre-conference workshop, the Restoration Process: Where Do I Fit In? Daniel O'Brien of Hamilton and Christopher Thomas of Toronto were local hosts.

The people involved in the planning of this conference feel that the visiting delegates both from Canada and the States not only enjoyed themselves but also obtained a better awareness of Upper Canada and Hamilton, Canada West.

John Quinn, Daniel O'Brien

## CAMBRIDGE:

Heritage Cambridge held its annual meeting on October 13th, with a wine and cheese party ending an evening devoted to local heritage topics. The election of a new executive and board resulted in Joanne Smart taking over the job of president. Two new board members joined our hard-working group — Ruth Werlich and John Bell. A presentation was made to outgoing president, Gerry Musselman, and to past-president Pat Rosebrugh.



At the annual meeting we introduced two new things, both of which should help our heritage work. One was our newly published Driving Tour of Cambridge. This tour covers a great number of historic buildings in the Cambridge area, though, of course, we couldn't work them all in. It is illustrated with excellent photographs, and the text is arranged to make it as easy as possible to follow while driving. We are selling these Tours for \$2.75 each (and that includes a copy of our previously published Walking Tour, which is tucked into a flap at the back). They are available at several local book stores, a department store, and through members of Heritage Cambridge Board. We hope this book will help local people and tourists appreciate how many good buildings we have in this area.

The second happy introduction was of a very fine drawing by Richard Brown of Preston Public School. The fight to save this old stone school was long and hard — and we lost. The whole community will lose when this building is torn down, as it soon will be, but we now have this drawing to record it. The drawing was commissioned by Don McLeod, President of Savage Shoes, an old Preston firm. Reproduction rights were given to Heritage Cambridge, along with the drawing. The first print of a limited edition was presented by Mr. McLeod to the school. Heritage Cambridge is very fortunate to have this print to add to their other prints of stone buildings in Cambridge. We are selling all these prints, individually and in sets. It is heartening that many local firms have purchased sets of prints for their offices. The first drawings were given to us by Canadian General Tower, an old Galt firm. Now we thank Savage Shoes for the generous gift of this drawing of a Preston landmark.

Work continues on research into the history of local buildings. An advertisement in the paper brought us some workers to help in this. Katherine Hebblethwaite and Andrew Taylor, two experts on local history, and members of our board, have been kept busy with requests to conduct bus tours. They do as many as they can, to help educate people in our local lore and open their eyes to the architectural wealth that is still here.

There has been some talk of forming a LACAC committee in Cambridge, but the city is moving very slowly. We are doing what we can to bring one into being.

L. D.

## LONDON:

"The Strategic Architecture of London" was the topic of Patrick J. Coles' illustrated lecture in mid-October, to a 150 member audience formed by the two congenial and sympathetic bodies, The London and Middlesex Historical Society, and the London Region Branch of the ACO.

Mr. Coles, a member of the City of London's LACAC came from the city of Cheltenham, and in England served on conservation committees, experience of great help to LACAC. He is also Chairman of the sub-committee of LACAC concerned with designation. City maps were used to indicate the street location and the density of older buildings, the primary concerns in the early stage of the preparation of the sub-committee's report.

Winter slides clearly revealed the buildings individually as well as their relation to building groups; many had been

taken from viewpoints delightful in their charm and unfamiliarity. Two ACO members later said that Mr. Coles' presentation had focussed their attention upon a building and its setting to help them realize for the first time the inherent beauty of the scene.

Throughout the lecture the principles of urban and historic district planning were demonstrated to those who may not have been fully aware of streetscape and ideas of area conservation. Slides very successfully illustrated the wealth of architectural interest in London.

London is indeed fortunate in having in its service Mr. Coles who is not only sensitive but also knowledgeable, as well as being forthright. Mr. Coles is strong in his belief and staunch in his loyalty to the sometimes volatile and ever delicate practise of conservation.

The ACO members were pleased to be able to distribute to non-members, as well as members, copies of our publication, Acorn Vol. I: 2.

## DEVELOPMENT WITHIN HISTORIC AREAS:

Serious thought by most of us must have been given from time to time to the dilemma that is the subject of the Herchmer-Loriginal debate in the Heritage Canada newsletter: "Heritage Conversation Vol. 2, No. 4, Autumn 1976, p. 23-27: "Disneyland defended" and "Conservation vs. Kitsch".

Where development must occur in Historic Areas guidance and a means of assessment of proposed developments has not always been available for those serving on an architectural review committee. The present nebulous manner of assessment of proposed development is certainly unsatisfactory; useful criteria would render the task so much easier and more successful. For those who believe that a committee's goal is "to preserve the unity of feeling which is the principle of good taste", (G. M. Young: Eyes and No Eyes), the sixteen criteria that follow will surely be invaluable.

(Several years ago, Ann Falkner of the Ottawa Branch of the ACO gave an illustrated presentation to the London Branch on The Criteria for Development within Historic Areas as used in Savannah, Georgia. Line drawings from Savannah's publication were shown, and slides that illustrated each criterion, from London and elsewhere, followed. Whether that excellent publication might still be available is not certain, but the list itself could be of use and should be made known to LACAC's by ACO members.)

## CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPMENT WITHIN HISTORIC AREAS:

1. Height — This is a mandatory criteria that new buildings be constructed to a height within ten percent of the average height of existing adjacent buildings.
2. Proportion of buildings' front façade — The relationship between the width and height of the front elevation of the building.
3. Proportion of openings within the façade — The relationship of width to height of windows and doors.
4. Rhythm of solids to voids in front façade — Rhythm being an ordered recurrent alternation of strong and weak elements. Moving by an individual building, one experiences a rhythm of masses to openings.

5. Rhythm of spacing of buildings on streets – Moving past a sequence of buildings, one experiences a rhythm of recurrent building masses to spaces between them.
6. Rhythm of entrance and/or porch projections – The relationships of entrances to sidewalks. Moving past a sequence of structures, one experiences a rhythm of entrances or porch projections at an intimate scale.
7. Relationships of materials – Within an area, the predominant material may be brick, stone, stucco, wood siding or other material.
8. Relationships of textures – The predominant texture may be smooth (stucco) or rough (brick with tooled joints) or horizontal wood siding or other textures.
9. Relationship of colour – The predominant colour may be that of a natural material or a painted one, or a patina coloured by time. Accent or blending colours of trim is also a factor.
10. Relationship of architectural details – Details may include cornices, lintel, arches, quoins, balustrades, wrought iron work, chimneys, etc.
11. Relationships of roof shapes – The majority of buildings may have gable, mansard, hip, flat roofs or others.
12. Walls of continuity – Physical ingredients such as brick walls, wrought iron fences, evergreen landscape masses, building façades or combinations of these, form continuous, cohesive walls of enclosure along the street.
13. Relationship of landscaping – There may be a predominance of a particular quality and quantity of landscaping. The concern here is more with mass and continuity.
14. Ground cover – There may be a predominance in the use of brick pavers, cobble stones, granite blocks, tabby or other materials.
15. Scale – Scale is created by the size of units of construction and architectural detail which relate to the size of man.  
Scale is also determined by building mass and how it relates to open space. The predominant element of scale may be brick or stone units, windows or door openings, porches and balconies, etc.
16. Directional expression of front elevation – Structural shape, placement of openings and architectural details may give a predominantly vertical, horizontal, or a non-directional character to the buildings front façade.

### ADDING TO OUR STRENGTH BY NUMBERS:

Good news from London is the formation of the Heritage Chapter of the IODE. Not yet a year old, the Chapter continues to grow in numbers and enthusiasm as reported by the first Regent of that Chapter. In October, two London ACO members spoke to the group. The one member, also a member of London's LACAC and the sub-committee for designation of building gave information on these two committees. The slides and commentary that followed drew expressions of surprise at the quantity and quality of our heritage. More eyes and new eyes to see with cannot but profit conservation.

S. W.

## HURON COUNTY:

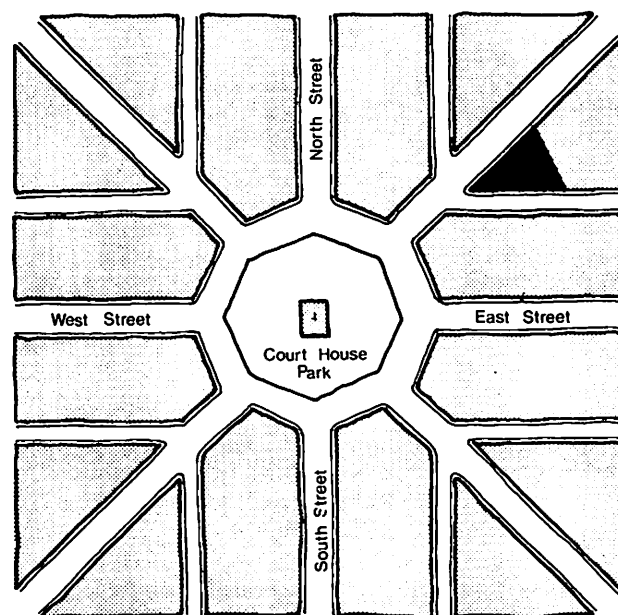
### Funds allocated for Exhibition:

\$300 has been allocated by the Huron Branch to the preparation of an exhibition entitled "New Life for Old Buildings in Huron County". This innovative and challenging proposal was made and adopted at the September 30th Annual General Meeting. The exhibition will illustrate by photograph ten successful and unsuccessful examples of old buildings that have been re-cycled into new uses. Kelvin Jarvis, a professional photographer from the Town of Clinton in Huron, has been retained to prepare the exhibition. An additional \$300 is being sought through private donation to cover the anticipated \$600 total expense of the project. The exhibition will then tour the libraries and schools of Huron.

### WINTER LECTURE PROGRAMME:

A series of lectures delivered by leading architectural historians and practitioners, museum experts and craftsmen is now being put together to commence in January. The format will follow the highly successful guest speaker evenings of last winter, which consistently attracted a gathering in excess of sixty people. Last year's theme was simply called "The Restoration of Historic Buildings" and the speakers were Stephen Otto, Dorothy Duncan, Brian Garratt and Philip Dunning.

### GODERICH "SQUARE" DEMOLITION:



Plan of the "Square" in Goderich showing the "vista" location of the Colborne Block in black.

A famous landmark in the central Square of Goderich, the Colborne Block, was demolished on October 4. The block, dating from 1847 and formerly a hotel was a valuable "vista" building on a triangular lot facing the central Court House Park. The local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committee and members of the ACO battled in vain to have the demolition permit withdrawn, at least until a study could be made of how all or part of the building might

be saved. A mere handful of citizens gave support. Demolition commenced and the lot is now a parking lot. The end result is absolutely and undeniably disastrous on the architectural integrity of the Square.



View of the Colborne Block from the "Square" in Goderich.

#### BAYFIELD LIBRARY RESTORATION:



The library on Main Street in Bayfield has been over time a caretaker's office and a fish house. Built in the mid-1800's this small building has a most elegant air with a symmetrical façade of centre doorway and side windows of vertical proportion. The Village Council of Bayfield, desiring to retain the building and yet faced with the need to expand their library facility have decided, therefore, to move it across the street to the new library location. The old structure will become a focal point of the new design, accommodating an archives for the many local artifacts, documents and photographs in possession of the Village and Historical Society. Reeve Oddleifson, an ACO member, is to be congratulated for this ambitious restoration project.

#### MANSION CONVERTED TO HOTEL:

The oldest and most noble residence in Goderich has been saved and successfully restored and refurbished as a small hotel. Built in 1839 by Thomas Mercer Jones,

Commissioner of the Canada Company, the former residence is situated overlooking the harbour. Here he brought his wife, daughter of Bishop Strachan, and 21 wagon loads of fine furniture and dishes over 150 miles of corduroy roads. The house was the centre of social life until Jones' dismissal from the Company in 1853. It then served as a bank until 1858 and has subsequently been a hotel. In 1975 it had fallen into a poor state of disrepair and was threatened with demolition. In the spring of 1976 an enterprising young couple, Mr. & Mrs. Aylesworth purchased the property. They have made the exterior attractive with shutters and paint and spent countless hours restoring the interior. They are now open for business as the "Harbour Park Inn".

#### KINGSTON CONFERENCE ATTENDED:

Seven members of the Huron Branch attended the "New Life for Old Buildings" symposium in Kingston sponsored jointly by the Frontenac Historic Foundation, Heritage Canada and the Ontario Heritage Foundation. All members unanimously reported that this was one of the finest conferences they had attended, and returned inspired, better informed and acquainted with others of like interest. Many congratulations to the sponsors.

#### LACAC's GAIN STRENGTH:

Through the untiring efforts and interest of George Kapelos from the Heritage Administration Branch of the Ministry of Culture and Recreation, three Local Architectural Conservation Advisory Committees are now flourishing in Huron. They are in the towns of Goderich and Clinton and Village of Bayfield. George, to whom we refer as "our man in the Ministry", has been of great assistance to the heritage movement in Huron by explaining the Act and successfully getting local municipalities to consider more carefully their architectural heritage.

#### 1838 HOUSE BECOMES OFFICES:



Whitely House 1838

A sumptuous and richly carved verandah on the main façade persuaded Dorothy Wallace to purchase No. 58 Elgin Avenue E. in Goderich. Subsequent restoration work to the exterior revealed beneath the tarpaper the original clapboard exterior which has now been cleaned, repaired and painted. As with most restoration schemes, problems surfaced every day, but now the residence has been success-



fully repaired and converted into professional offices. What was once a dilapidated large old house is now a noble and handsome heritage work.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES MINISTRY DEMOLISHES MILL:**

An ancient landmark in the Lake Huron village of Port Albert, the old mill, was demolished in September by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Against local municipal and resident opposition, ACO presentations and indeed recommendation by the archaeologist for preservation the M.N.R. district office stubbornly pursued their demolition objective. A completely senseless and unwarranted act, which a provincial ministry can so easily accomplish by confusing, hiding, overwhelming and ultimately humiliating local concern by their enormous strength and unlimited resources. (Not to mention gall! PJS)

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## **AROUND AND ABOUT: HAPPENINGS IN ONTARIO**

### **AMHERSTBURG:**

While the town moves on with the consideration of a Historic Conservation District and the pre-requisite study, the rehabilitation programmes of NIP and RRAP tackle the problems of the downtown area. This time it is hoped such activities will combine to aid rather than thwart the preservation of the character of the community by setting some guidelines for repairs and refurbishing which do not make unnecessarily drastic alterations, at least to exteriors. A study is proposed.

However one tragedy has already occurred, the partial loss of the Lakeview Hotel 1875 by a drastic fire recently. This building occupies an important corner site on Dalhousie, the main street, and is considered an important anchor to downtown Amherstburg. Every effort is being made to save the structure and rebuild the damaged sections if this is feasible.

### **BALTIMORE:**

Ball's Mill, owned by the Ganaraska Conservation Authority and on a branch of Cobourg Creek just off Highway 45, a few miles north of Cobourg, is threatened with demolition shortly. This handsome landmark on the side of the valley is a substantial white painted building in the functional tradition familiar to readers of Rural Ontario (Plate 57). Its mill race and storage ponds follow terraces along the hillside from the millpond upstream. The miller's house survives above in a prominent position overlooking the village in the valley and mill nearby. Not only a grist and feed mill, but also a sawmill operated here, the carriage and circular saw still in place.

With experience in preserving mills on other Conservation Authority territory (see Everton) we hope that the GCA can be persuaded to study the possibilities before yet another fine reminder of our early industrial prowess disappears — and there are far too few surviving now.



### **COBOURG:**

Victoria Hall slowly takes shape, the cupola and clock tower still swathed in scaffolding but a new clock and dials telling the time and sounding the hours after a silence of some two years. Interior refurbishing continues and the Cobourg Art Gallery will hold its opening in the new space in the third floor west side on the 7th January, 1977. Town offices will follow shortly thereafter. Right now the original furniture of the Courtroom is being reinstated and the court offices will be tackled next. Spring should see Victoria Hall once again open to the public, but of course funds are still required for restoration of the most magnificent painted room in Canada West — the Concert Hall — part of Phase 3 of the project.

### **ELORA:**

A sign on the approaches to Elora states that Elora needs another bridge, which cannot be denied, but goes on to protest why should outsiders interfere, to which we answer if is a question of where and how that improvement should come about that should concern everyone lest a site of unique and undeniable scenic and natural beauty should be spoilt for all time.

#### **I The Proposed Bridge over the Grand River:**

Supreme Court of Ontario Judge Francis Weatherston refused to grant an injunction against the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) from transferring park land to Wellington County for the bridge site. On April 30 Appeal Court Judge John Arnup upheld this decision. Following this, Kitchener Alderman Rosenberg (a member of GRCA) and MPP Mac Makarchuk of Brantford made application to ask for an appeal to the Supreme Court of Canada. On October 19th word was received that the Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal. Reasons were not made public. Lawyer Rosenberg stated "The dismissal created a bad and dangerous precedent. No one now can question any appointed or elected body and bring an issue involving questionable conduct into a court."

The headlines in the Guelph Mercury on October 20th read "End of the Road for Bridge Opponents". But Mr. Rosenberg (despite added court costs, already \$40,000) says he will fight the issue politically.

He has two courses he can follow:

1. The land transfer is subject to Ontario cabinet approval. The two men's lawyer (E. Goodman of Toronto) will probably ask that the land transfer be delayed until a government funded road study can be made in which alternative possibilities for the location of the bridge could be explored. Opponents of the bridge's location cannot afford to initiate these studies, although it is obvious it should have been done.
2. There is a possibility an Ontario Municipal Board hearing will review the question. The bridge was not included in the original Wellington County official plan and will require an amendment at Queen's Park to clear the project.

Your support of a review and relocation of the Grand River Bridge near Elora noted above can be expressed most effectively in letters to:

|                             |                               |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| The Hon. George Kerr Q.C.   | Hon. Leo Bernier              |
| Minister of the Environment | Ministry of Natural Resources |
| 135 St. Clair Ave. W.       | Room 6336, Whitney Block      |
| Toronto, Ont. N4V 1P5       | Queen's Park, Toronto         |

This action on your part will bring the matter to the Ministers' attention and could lead to reconsideration of the problem by the Environmental Assessment Board.

## II The Stop-the-Dam Committee

A \$171,000 report to assess the impact of the dam was prepared by an Advisory Committee set up by the GRCA and was published in 2 volumes at the beginning of October. Douglas Ratz, chairman of the Stop-the-Dam Committee says "it didn't contain a single new fact". Prof. George Rich of the University of Waterloo called the report "an assumption by the GRCA that father knows best and all we've got to do is agree and pay up."

The Stop-the-Dam Committee and Pilkington Tourship recently held a joint meeting. The speaker was Dr. Charles Godfrey, who has been much involved in the Pickering airport dispute. He warned them against falling for the "citizen-participation ploy". The GRCA has called for public meetings before the dam has been accepted by any public body. He advised opponents to organize quickly and well, to ask the government for funds to "play the poker games they set up, where they have all the chips", to be prepared to appear before the Environmental Hearing Board in impressive numbers and to be prepared to spend money for lawyers.

The following paragraph appeared in the editorial page of the Kitchener Waterloo Record on October 20.

"We hope the opponents to the dam get all the support, expert assistance and money they need to fight the battle on equal terms. They are entitled to that. If that happens then there is reason to hope that the final decision, having been thoroughly tested, will prove to be the right one and in the best interests of those affected by it". An ACO Amen to That!

Carolyn Neal

## EVERTON:

Hortop's Mill on the Eramosa north-east of Guelph and owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority, has been saved from demolition and after repairs and essential rehabilitation was opened to the public in a ceremony held on Sunday, 19th September, 1976. The mill is a timber structure now serving local community and recreational needs. It was built as a grist and feed mill, but a sawmill once occupied a nearby site. The building like most of its kind is a simple structure of great presence, a landmark in a small picturesque valley, the centre of the hamlet of Everton and its *raison d'être*.

## GUELPH:

A series of lectures on the historic, social and cultural background of the city, in commemoration of the approaching 150th anniversary of the founding of Guelph was led by Prof. Gordon Couling and concluded in mid-November with the Historic Streetscapes of Guelph. But recent photographs, in comparison with those taken less than fifteen years ago, show how much has been demolished or destroyed in that short interval. In the light of such decay – and St. George's Square is perhaps the prime example of "town rot" – a plea was made for more imaginative rebuilding using what is left as a key, if only temporarily, to a greater scheme befitting a city that aspires to the title "Royal".

One other bright spot, however, does show – the Guelph Civic Museum is now contemplating moving into that handsome three storey stone building of the mid-19th century known as the Knights of Columbus Hall and one end of a characteristic 19th century street medley of old Guelph. The front is to be restored – with appropriate store windows to the ground floor, the interior renovated to provide new facilities for the museum.

## LOBO:

A heartening report comes from this Southern Ontario village just west of London that the St. Clair Region Conservation Authority is purchasing the historic 106 year old Marsh General Store in that community. The Authority plans to restore the building to the period when it served as the telephone exchange, in a long history of changing use as residence, general store, post office, exchange, telegraph office, library, municipal quarters and insurance office.

## NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE:

Apart from a lackadaisical LACAC we note that one historic structure, on Picton Street, Moffat's Hotel c.1835 was being gutted internally which makes the lack of action locally doubly distressing. Should we kiss old Niagara goodbye?

## PAISLEY:

Dr. Owen Scott reports that phase 1 of the main street improvement scheme has been accomplished. Principal lighting similar to the new high bay illumination in Port Hope was used but the poles were set against the buildings or away from the curb to control yet another clutter – a neat solution.

## PERTH:

Congratulations to Mrs. Cyril Inderwick on her Award of Honour by Heritage Canada, recognition well-deserved for her activities in the preservation field and her continued interest in ACO and kindred organizations.

## PETERBOROUGH:

The Hutchison House approaches completion of the first part of restoration with structural reinforcement accomplished, a new roof in place, chimneys rebuilt and partitions replaced in their original locations. Casement sash are being restored and the porch has been repaired. Electrical radiant heating is being used to replace the former hot water radiators. Joe J. Overvliet, the contractor on the work, is hard at work to allow the Peterborough Historical Society into the building.

## PICTON:

The Macaulay House, the Old Rectory, c.1827 now has a handsome, new wood shingle roof with the cornice gutter restored. More detailed plans are now being worked out for continuing restoration.

## STRATFORD:

Heritage Stratford, affiliated with ACO, continues with other organizations alongside, to wage a battle to preserve the city's downtown core. But public response to the alarm and letters, including one from the Toronto Region Branch of the ACO, helped sway public opinion and that of the City Council to defeat the bylaw authorizing demolition of the Gordon Block on second reading. Further destruction of Stratford's core is stayed – that is – as Jim Anderson of Heritage Stratford would put it – until further notice.

## FURTHER THOUGHTS FROM LONDON:

For those of us who cherish, believe in and truly do enjoy the gaiety and freedom of Victorian and Edwardian architecture so predominant in our heritage there is the occasion when we feel on the defensive wondering whether we should really like what is around us. Perhaps dishonestly, perhaps without sufficient knowledge, training or evaluation we might say in response to Victorian architecture: "How quaint – how amusing". Such a response seems unfair, as well as superficial, neither showing respect nor honour toward past builders and their patrons.

Fortunately today an increasing number of publications add to our knowledge and appreciation of these once despised and ridiculed styles. Often, in other than architectural books, illuminating comments give us greater insight, more ability to evaluate styles thus renewing our conviction in the worth of our work in conservation.

There is the ever more poignant quotation of the 18th century architect, Nicholas Hawksmoor, that expresses succinctly an inspiring truth whenever it is used: "Whatever is good in its kind ought to be preserved in respect for antiquity, as well as our present advantage, for destruction can be profitable to none but such as live by it".

When reading, many of us must pause to re-read an appealing passage because a point made by the author seems worth copying into our 20th century "Common Book". Such serendipity came to light in "Points of View" by W. Somerset Maugham (pub. Heinemann) in an essay, *The Short Story*: "People grow tired even of good things. They want change. To take an example from another art: domestic architecture during the Georgian era reached a rare perfection; the houses that were built then were good to look at and comfortable to live in. The rooms were spacious, airy and well-proportioned. You would have thought people would be content with such houses for ever. But no. The romantic era approached; they wanted the quaint, the fanciful, the picturesque; and architects, not unwillingly, built them what they wanted."

We hope that Acorn readers, for the most part, have already reached that time in their lives, no longer feeling bound to like only one style, when they can look at Georgian, Victorian, or Edwardian, that is, "whatever is good in its kind", and appreciate the examples as representatives and therefore of great interest and value, of another time and a different way of life.

Twenty-six years ago G. M. Young's "Last Essays" (Rupert Hart-Davis), was published: one of these is of particular interest to anyone concerned that Canadians should become more aware of their architectural heritage. In his essay, "Eyes and No Eyes" he reflects sadly upon what John Ruskin could have done, endowed as he was with the natural gifts: "the most observant eye on record and an unrivalled mastery of descriptive prose".

Young regretfully points out that: "The truth, and the trouble, was that Ruskin was a Grand Tourist, and below the level of the Grand Tour or the Journey in Pursuit of the Picturesque in Dovedale or the Lakes, he could not see at all. With the baleful consequences of that insensibility we are struggling today".

Had Ruskin not been financially able to travel in Europe, G. M. Young continues:

"There would have been no Stones of Venice, no Modern Painters, and no Lamps. Instead, there might have been such an analysis, and such pictures, of the human landscape of England as would have furnished the coming generations with a complete philosophy of planning and design. Excited, dazzled, and overwhelmed by the rapture of travel, Ruskin excited, dazzled, and overwhelmed his age by the splendour of his language: he imposed his standards of appreciation with the united authority of an artist, a critic, and a moralist: and to the business in hand, whether it was building churches or housing the people, those standards were for the most part irrelevant, precisely because his just insistence in 'climate, situation, and turn of mind' had, in England, no backing of historical knowledge or direct observation. It was a conception without perception, and therefore empty. We were left, at the most critical period of our artistic history, without any body of native aesthetic thought to resist the invasion of deceased styles and alien manners, and to preserve the 'unity of feeling which is the first principle of good taste'. In 1936, with the connivance of the Crown three savages destroyed the Court House at



Eltham, in its place and kind one of the loveliest things surviving in England. It had, they said, no historical or architectural interest: it did not belong to any of the styles or periods which are scheduled for admiration. But if it had not been for Ruskin and the Gothic revival, they might have noticed that it was beautiful."

Young voices concern that a man of great capability misdirected his talents to the detriment of his own country, in his own life-time as well as for many years thereafter. Surely today, in Canada we are more fortunate. Throughout our country writers and speakers are opening our eyes to the beauty of "the human landscape" of Canada, and treating us to the philosophy of planning and design.

The progress toward our goal is slow, occasionally faltering, but challenge and interest are always there. Now we can appreciate that our group is no longer alone but bolstered by others fostering architectural appreciation and conservation to grow mutually in strength, knowledge and numbers, an encouraging development. Immediate success cannot be expected in all our endeavours, but in our continued efforts we learn repeatedly that conservation can be enriching to all.

Susan Wilson

## REVIEW:

**Rally Round the Jack**, by Leonard L. Knott, Nelson, Foster and Scott Ltd., Toronto, and Robert Hale and Co., London.

Leonard Knott is eminently qualified to write about a small town's militant struggle for life against big business. One might say he had it 'up to the neck' in the years he spent in Elora where he fought to save the beauty of the gorge. His experience as president of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario provided him with ample material for his novel. He knows whereof he writes, and if human nature has not made him bitter, it is because his own character is strong enough to rise above the disappointments and turn to other things. He knows about members who join and won't work, friends who won't take on responsibilities, governments who listen to big time developers, and he sees their foibles and writes about them hilariously.

We read that for its own reasons, Corpidex Corp., "a *big* company, in a *big* land, with *big* ideas, *big* plans, with *bigmen* at the top" has chosen to bestow upon the village of Sawville, one of the largest commercial and cultural complexes in North America — if not the world. Sawville is to become Corpvile, a super city. The developers, those forerunners of progress, will pull the place down, get the bulldozers in, rip up the land, dam the streams, and subdivide. For readers who belong to the Architectural Conservancy, the Historical Society, or other heritage groups, there is a *déjà vu* quality about the book.

The big news is received by some of the villagers as a blessing: there would now be work for the young who had been leaving in droves seeking greener fields. Others looked on the influx of big business with horror. To them it would mean an end to their familiar village. Whole blocks of

buildings on the main street would crumble to the destroying crunch of bulldozers. The merchants, so valuable to the existence of the burgers of Sawville, whose great-grandfathers had built these buildings in which the family business still existed, if not flourished, would be wiped out. All this *could* happen, but for one contingency. Corpidex would move in immediately if they could buy all the land they needed, and they needed one parcel of land which was rented in perpetuity to the Lawn Bowling Club by the town. This is the crux of the matter: hence the title, **Rally Round the Jack**.

It is all so familiar: the story of so many small towns. We read about a short-sighted council that allows the sale of a charming little statue from the town park to an American who erects in its place a plastic bus shelter.

Mr. Knott, in his discerning character sketches, proves that as a writer he not only looks at people but listens to them as well. By the words of Graham Pearson, the local footwear merchant, fear for his very livelihood comes through when he says, "Ruin stares us villagers in the face if they let one of them damn big plazas in the centre of the business district." He gives us enchanting life-like descriptions of the bowlers, not omitting one 'emerging from his eighties,' and another quaint ninety-twoer known locally as 'them bowlers'.

There are laughs all through the book, although the humour degenerates to farce toward the end. An editor's long memory for faces, and a ninety-two year old bowler who remembered the boy who once lived next door to him provide us with the *dénouement*.

Another novel is at present in the hands of the English printer, and a third will appear next fall. Although for the present, the Architectural Conservancy may have lost an active member, Canadian readers have acquired a new author who will provide hours of pleasurable reading.

The attractive green, grey, white and black cover is most appropriate, featuring the bowling green, edged by the villages old buildings standing before the ever-present threat of high-rise skyscrapers, etched out in grey.

Marion Walker Garland

**The Annual General Meeting** of the ACO was held in Laidlaw Hall, Upper Canada College, Toronto on 13 November, 1976. Following the usual formalities briefly and expeditiously handled by the President John L. McFarland ably assisted by the Secretary Duncan C. Lee, the slate of officers put up by the Nominating Committee headed by Vice President K. H. J. Clarke was duly elected. The retiring President duly thanked all concerned for their help and interest during his term. Mention was made of progress and liaison with other groups, the birth of Acorn and the President's participation in Habitat '76 involving his trip to B.C. to take part in the Conference as a member of the group representing the non-governmental organizations in Canada.

Sir Arthur Chetwynd, National Chairman of the

Canterbury Cathedral Appeal and John F. Irwin, Ontario Chairman, then presented the fascinating film, *Prince Charles and Canterbury* in which His Royal Highness explores the Cathedral and the restoration work already underway and for which the current appeal for funds is now being made. Reference has already been made to ACO's contribution in memory of Jim Acland.

Following the film a reception, organized by the Toronto Branch, was held in the Common Room nearby and members and guests at the meeting were able to meet others and discuss common interests as well as enjoy old friends. Present at the meeting were several favourites in the preservation field but we would particularly like to mention Dr. Eric R. Arthur, founder of ACO, Dr. Anthony Adamson and Carl Schaefer, the well-known painter.

P. J. S.

## MARGINALIA

### Causes for Concern:

1. The enormous and impressive power of conservation authorities throughout Ontario perhaps needs a little examination and review. This is highlighted by a brochure handed to us entitled *Flood Plain and Source Area Regulations in the Grand River Watershed* (by the Grand River Conservation Authority, of course). Regulation can be quite severe if you happen to live in a flood plain area and remember how many early Ontario communities come indeed within that classification. After all, early communication often depended on water transportation, commerce was attracted to mill sites serving the agricultural community and, later, water powered industry. Many historic places depended for their livelihood if not their very existence on the waterways of the Province. And floods were an occasional if not a frequent occurrence to be dealt with as they came and went, suffered as part of annual and sometimes seasonal annoyance. Whereas Hurricane Hazel did not happen every year, ice cakes to ground floor ceilings can be remembered on Port Hope's Walton Street in this century.

Flood control measures, re-forestation, dam building and watercourse improvement have reduced but not removed the risks. Historic communities continue to survive in less than ideal locations. But the regulations may eventually conflict with preservation of historic places, an eventuality for which we should be prepared.

2. Rehabilitation programmes now being used to improve declining areas of aging smaller communities such as NIP (Neighbourhood Improvement Programme) and RRAP (Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Programme) are not geared specifically to the preservation of older structures. In fact the criteria for improvement refer to modern standards only and are not concerned with the original character, the intrinsic worth, of older buildings. Therefore such programmes if indiscriminately applied to historic neighbourhoods could lead to erosion of valuable material and obliteration of significant detail, not to mention mutilation.

It is important to coordinate preservation activity with

rehabilitation programmes to ensure that the best of both worlds is achieved. This means a close watch has to be kept on communities of historical and architectural merit likely to suffer depredations under these improvement projects and to turn one objective of NIP, namely "to increase the effect of related programmes" into mutually reinforcing results. Perhaps the concurrent projects now underway in Amherstburg will point the way.

## PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST:

**An Album of Drawings of Early Buildings in Nova Scotia** by Arthur W. Wallace: The Heritage Trust of Nova Scotia. We mention this because of Arthur Wallace's contributions to preservation in Ontario and his many measured drawings of buildings in this Province and this is a suitable companion for comparison. Available from Mrs. Cora Greenaway, Heritage Trust Book Committee, 26 Newcastle Street, Dartmouth, N.S., B2Y 3M5, the book contains 64 plates of measured drawings and details both exterior and interior made in the 1920's and 1930's, with historical notes, at \$25.00 (plus \$1.00 for mailing) for the 12 x 18 inch hard-cover edition and \$12.50 (plus \$1.00 for mailing) for the 9 x 12 inch soft cover version.

**Building Early America** or Contributions Toward the History of a Great Industry, the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia, Charles E. Petersen, Editor, Chilton Book Company, Radnor, Pa. 1976; 387 pages copiously illustrated with drawings and photographs. The book comprises a fascinating compendium of essays on building history not only in America but in the background to that building, plus several chapters on preservation across the world including North America. This book needs more detailed study and review.

**The Victorian Home in America**, by John Mass, Hawthorn Books Inc., New York 1972, by the author of *The Gingerbread Age*. 223 pages including bibliography, copiously illustrated with photographs and plates, some in colour. Noted as "A Pictorial investigation of the Victorian Living environment".

**Victorian Architecture**. Two pattern books by A. J. Bicknell & W. T. Comstock with a new introduction by John Maass, published for the Athenaeum Library of Nineteenth Century America by The American Life Foundation and Study Institute, Watkins Glen, N.Y., 1976. This was first published as *Detail, Cottage and Constructive Architecture* by Bicknell in 1873, and *Modern Architectural Designs and Details* by Comstock in 1881, and forms with the plates supplemented by a few fascinating advertisements a valuable source book for late Victorian taste in building. So much would seem to be the inspiration for some of Rosedale's earlier splendours.

Before closing special thanks again go to Mrs. Kathleen Courtney for her patience in typing rough drafts, editions and final copy.

P. J. S.

ACORN II-1 is planned for publication late in March 1977 if your contributions of material and funds permit.

Contributions should still be sent to Peter John Stokes, 244 King Street, P.O. Box 170, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, L0S 1J0 clearly marked ACORN so that these receive our prompt attention and, if necessary, first typing *to arrive not later than 12 March 1977* and preferably sooner. Last minute news can be sent as a postscript to be added under STOP PRESS.

Au revoir until next year.

M. W. G.  
P. J. S.

P.S. Haynes Printing (Cobourg) Limited, having produced our first two Acorns successfully, has been entrusted with the third.

P. J. S.

## STOP PRESS:

Brought to mind after a recent examination of a fire-damaged heritage structure is the fact that demolition is normally required upon 50% or more damage to a building. But how many buildings in the past have been gutted by fire and were rebuilt upon the walls — St. Mark's, Niagara-on-the-Lake, destroyed in the War of 1812 comes immediately to mind and it is still standing, over a century and a half after reconstruction.

Today even better methods of rebuilding are available where internal structures can relieve old bearing walls of the loads of floors and, furthermore, can be tied to the outer walls, a practice frequently neglected in those parallel to the floor joists for three or even more storeys in height, (witness Victoria Hall in Cobourg, now reinforced with tie rods to overcome this deficiency). The modern practice was admirably demonstrated in the reconstruction of the old Christie Bread building for George Brown College in downtown Toronto where the interior was gutted and rebuilt leaving only the outside walls, these tied back into the structure, the outer skin of the building no more than a curtain wall as in modern structures with steel skeletons.

It is, therefore, essential, especially in the case of heritage buildings which often play a very important role in the townscape of an older community, that all possibilities for their retention should be explored. An engineering report or a rebuilding scheme should be developed immediately. This suggests that the current thought that the 50% damage clause is cause for demolition is no longer always valid and may need to be reconsidered in the case of historic buildings. This brings forward yet another thought: if such relief were available just cause for demolition after a fire would have to be proved beyond all reasonable doubt. Then arson would become a far less profitable route to removal and might never be used in future.

Peter John Stokes



